From: Rob Leikind
To: Mayor
Subject: Mobilize: Defeat Cambridge BDS
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Cambridge City Council (CCC) Resolution to Boycott HP

A Shameless Undemocratic Abdication to the Global BDS Movement?

On April 23rd, the City Council of Cambridge, MA is scheduled to consider a resolution that invites a boycott of Hewlett Packard (HP) for business done with Israel. The initiative is supported by Our Revolution Cambridge, Democratic Socialists of America, and Students for Justice in Palestine. It is being proposed by Mass Against HP (MAHP), a working group of Jewish Voice for Peace. These organizations actively cooperate with the international BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) movement, which, in the words of its leaders, is dedicated to Israel's destruction.

- **National and Massachusetts Leaders of the Left, Right and Center Reject**

BDS Initiatives
BDS initiatives fuel polarization and strengthen those who reject co-existence. National leaders from the left, right and center reject BDS. They include, Barack Obama, Bernie Sanders, Keith Ellison, Cory Booker, John Kerry, Ed Markey, Elizabeth Warren, Michael Capuano, Joe Kennedy, Deval Patrick and all 50 governors.

- **The Cambridge City Council (CCC) Has Cynically Suppressed Open Public Debate**
  Members of the CCC have collaborated with MAHP to introduce this highly politicized anti-Israel resolution. They have not reached out to interested community members to inform themselves and refused to share the resolution when asked. It will be released late Thursday afternoon, only two full business days before the council meets.

- **Allegations That Justify the Reported Resolution Rest on Half Truths and Falsehoods**
  MAHP argues that Israeli security measures, introduced after thousands of Israeli civilians were murdered and maimed by terrorists, are equivalent to apartheid. It is a hateful logic that undermines those who seek conciliation.

- **Singling Out Israel Would Raise Troubling Questions About the Cambridge City Council's Motives**
  There are hundreds of American companies working overseas and engaged in transactions that could be tied to questionable human rights practices. Even were we to assume (and we don't) that everything Israel's detractors say is true, why would the CCC choose to single out Israel? As New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman explains, "Criticizing Israel is not anti-Semitic ... But singling out Israel for opprobrium and international sanction out of all proportion to any other party in the Middle East is anti-Semitic, and not saying so is dishonest."

- **The Cambridge City Council Would Hold Israel to a Standard That It Does Not Apply to Itself**
  In 2017, the CCC established a special relationship with Dongguan, China. Dongguan is a toy manufacturing center for Disney, Mattel and others. Human rights abuses against laborers in the Dongguan toy industry are well-documented. Yet, the CCC has said nothing about this. Should the CCC vote to boycott itself?

TAKE ACTION .... This is a Numbers Game. To win this fight we need a thousand voices to:

- Inform ourselves by reviewing this fact sheet and the more detailed talking points.

- Contact all 9 city council members and share your concern about this resolution.
- Reach out to friends and neighbors. Forward this email and urge them to join you.
- Contact your Rabbi or other organizational leaders and ask them to mobilize their membership.
- Attend the hearing and bring concerned friends whether or not you choose to speak.
- For information on signing up to speak at the April 23rd hearing (non-residents eligible), please contact the Cambridge City Council at 617-349-4280. We will provide additional information regarding online registration when it becomes available (likely late Thursday afternoon).

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